

THIRD ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,
FRIMLEY URBAN DISTRICT.

1897.

The Frimley Urban District, having an area of 7674 acres, had at the census of 1881, a population of 4011, which ten years later had increased to 5295. Assuming an increase at the same ratio, the population in the middle of 1897 may be estimated at 6298 persons.

The number of Births registered during the year was 148 (79 males and 69 females), representing an Annual Birth Rate of 23·5 per 1000, of the estimated population.

The number of Deaths registered during the same period was 65, to which must be added two deaths in the County Asylum, and in the Guildford County Hospital, of persons belonging to the district, making a total of 67, which represents an Annual Death Rate of 10·6 per 1000, of the estimated population.

Twenty-three (3·6 per 1000) of these deaths occurred in children under two years of age, and twenty-two (3·5 per 1000) in persons over 60 years of age, so that between the ages of two and sixty there were only twenty-two deaths, representing an annual rate of 3·5 per 1000.

The Infant Mortality, based on the number of deaths (15) in children under one year, in proportion to the number of births (162) from the middle of 1896 to the middle of 1897, gives a ratio of 92·5 per 1000.

Six deaths (·95 per 1000) were due to Pulmonary Consumption, and thirteen (2 per 1000) to other Lung Diseases.

The deaths from Heart Disease have been eight in number, representing a rate of 1·27 per 1000.

Of the remaining deaths one was attributed to Influenza, four to Renal Disease, four to Apoplexy, three to Convulsions, and three to Tubercular Meningitis.

ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

1. SMALL POX.—No case of this disease was heard of.

2. SCARLET FEVER.—During September and October seven cases were notified, occurring in four separate houses. The origin of the disease was not definitely ascertained; but in four instances the Fever was contracted by contagion. The cases were all of a mild description, and ran a normal course.

3. DIPHTHERIA.—Only one case was reported, the patient being a child fourteen months of age, who made a good recovery. The house where the disease occurred was not connected with the main drain, and I have little doubt that the illness was caused by the ground becoming saturated with the contents of the cesspool and earth closets. The main sewer has since been extended to the house, and water has been laid on from the water mains.

4. ENTERIC FEVER.—Two cases were reported, one in June, the other in July. I made full inquiry respecting the possible origin, and channels of infection; but was unable to assign a definite cause in one of the cases. As regards the other case, I came to the conclusion that it had originated through one of the drains connected with the house becoming blocked, and this patient was removed at once to Reading Hospital. In both instances recovery took place.

5. MEASLES.—During the months of October and November an epidemic of Measles spread over the whole district, and it was found necessary to close the Schools in Yorktown, Camberley, and Frimley. The Yorktown and Camberley Schools were closed for three weeks, and the Frimley School for two weeks. Before being re-opened they were thoroughly cleansed and disinfected. Five deaths have been returned as being due to this disease.

6. **WHOOPING COUGH.**—In the Frimley Parish this complaint followed the outbreak of Measles, but did not become very prevalent.

7. **DIARRHŒA.**—Two children under the age of one year died from this illness.

The total number of deaths from the above diseases was seven in number, representing an Annual Zymotic Death Rate of 1.1 per 1000 of the estimated population.

Taken as a whole, the District has been remarkably free from Infectious Disease during the year, and the fact that only one case of Diphtheria was notified, is especially noteworthy.

GENERAL SANITARY MATTERS.

The number of New Buildings for which plans were submitted for approval during the year was 120. Of these, 77 shewed connections with the main sewers. The drains of the remaining 43 were shewn as emptying into cesspools.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL.—During the year this subject has again received the careful attention of the Council. A Site of five acres was chosen at Highland Farm, near Frimley Green, and, the owner having expressed his willingness to sell the land for the purpose specified, a resolution was passed by the Council authorizing the Clerk to enter into a contract for the purchase of the same. Strong opposition had meanwhile been offered by the adjoining proprietors, and, although the Clerk took immediate steps to effect the purchase, he was informed that the land had already been disposed of. The difficulties in obtaining a Site are very great, and I fear, if opposition be persisted in, we may find ourselves subjected to compulsion from outside.

WATER SUPPLY.—The number of houses supplied by the Frimley and Farnborough Water Company is steadily increasing, and during the year nearly 100 fresh connections have been made, making a total in the Frimley District of 250, equal to about one-fifth of the whole. The Directors have decided to extend the mains throughout the whole of the High Level of Camberley, and this work has now been commenced. In addition two filter beds, and a storage reservoir to hold 600,000 gallons are being constructed at the Frimley Green Pumping Station, and another Engine and Boiler are being laid down.

Several months ago the District Council requested me to make monthly examinations of the water, and I have done my best to comply with that request. I may here mention that a conference is about to be held of the Medical Health Officers of Surrey, for the special purpose of considering the best way of systematically carrying out the examination, inspection, and analysis of water supplies throughout the County.

Generally speaking, the houses in our District not supplied from the mains, depend on wells for their water. In the low lying parts these wells are shallow, and liable to surface contamination, but in the higher districts the waters are pure, and well adapted for all domestic purposes. At various times throughout the year I have taken samples from wells for examination, and, when the results have not been satisfactory, the owners have been requested to provide a proper supply. With one exception, these requests have been readily complied with.

It would appear to be very desirable that we should definitely ascertain and record the condition of every house in the District as regards water supply, and under the printed orders of the Local Government Board relating to the appointments of Medical Officer of Health and Sanitary Inspector, it will be part of my duty to plan out a systematic investigation for this purpose.

SEWERAGE FARMS.—The work of relaying the surface drains, and constructing filter beds at the Yorktown Farm has been proceeded with, and as a result there has been an improvement in the effluent. Two more filter beds have yet to be made, and it is hoped may still further reduce the chance of pollution entering the Blackwater River. Through the kindness of Mr. Hollings we have been permitted for a time to distribute the main body of Sewage over his adjoining fields, and so have been able to give our own land a needed rest.

I have inspected the outfall works of the Yorktown and Frimley Farms as occasion seemed to require, and have also accompanied the Medical Officer for the County, who was much impressed with the necessity of securing a first class effluent.

DRAINAGE, ETC.—Under the Private Streets Works Act, 1892, new sewers have been laid in Upper Gordon Road, Park Road, West Road, The Avenue, and Heatherly Road; and the making up of the following Private Streets has been carried out:—Lower Charles Street, the road leading to Eagle Cottages, and Plantation Row. In addition a new surface drain has been constructed in Frimley Street.

A matter which has received the consideration of the Sanitary Committee has been the best means of efficiently draining the group of houses situated on the Frimley Road beyond the Railway Bridge, and another group now being built on the Yorktown side of the Railway. It has been found practically impossible to connect these houses with the existing sewers, and a proposal is at present under consideration to construct an entirely new sewer going direct to the Yorktown Sewerage Farm.

The Sanitary condition of Bridge Cottages has been greatly improved: earth closets have replaced the old privies, and every house is now supplied with water from the Water Company's mains. The ditch at the rear of these houses, which has been a source of trouble for years, is being filled up, and the various sources of surface water have been directed into other channels.

Throughout the year the sewers have been flushed periodically, and so far as we have been able to ascertain are in good working order.

ROADS AND FOOTPATHS.—About 16,000 lineal feet of curbing has been used in forming footpaths, and over 2,000 yards of material has been used in making up the roads. Estimates, and a scheme have been proposed for the permanent paving of the footpath from Camberley to Blackwater Stations, and a scheme has also been proposed for the improvement of Osnaburgh Hill.

RECREATION GROUND.—An important addition to the attractiveness of the neighbourhood has been the purchase by the Council of 8½ acres of land, adjoining the London Road, at a cost of £1050 to be used as a Recreation Ground. The work of laying out and levelling is being proceeded with at a contract price of £397 15s. and plans for fencing and latrines are now in course of preparation. A Pavilion is also being erected, the funds for which are being raised by Public Subscription in commemoration of Her Majesty's Long Reign.

ROYAL ALBERT ORPHAN ASYLUM.—For the second year in succession this institution has been entirely free from infectious disease, and the health of the inmates has been very good. During the month of December I made a surprise visit, and found the dormitories, passages, closets, drains, and domestic offices in a thoroughly clean condition, and no lack of fresh air throughout the building; but it must again be mentioned that the Cubic Space, and especially the superficial area per head in the dormitories are still under the proper standard, and although every care is being taken by thorough cleanliness and good ventilation to make up for this defect it must be looked upon as being a source of danger in the event of an occurrence of infectious disease. I must also refer to the unsatisfactory condition of the Farm buildings, which require to be entirely rebuilt. I understand, however, that this work is in contemplation.

I attach Tabular Statements of Births, Deaths and Sickness, on the forms prescribed by the Local Government Board.

THOMAS WALCOT, M.D.,

Medical Officer of Health.

(A) Table of Deaths during the Year 1897. in the Frimley Urban District classified according to Diseases and Ages.

Mortality from all causes.							Mortality from specified causes.																					
At all Ages.	Under 1 Year	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and upwards	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
							Smallpox	Scarlatina	Diphtheria	Mem. Coep.	FEVERS					Purpura	Cholera	Erysipelas	Measles	Scarlat. Ex.	Syphilis	Rheumat.	Pituitia	Swelling of Throat	Plague	Hæmorrhage	Influenza	Typhoid
65	15	10	0	2	21	17	Under 3											5	2				7				11	25
						5 and upwards													1			6	6	8	1		18	40
Deaths occurring outside the District among persons belonging thereto.																												
2	0	1	0	0	1	0																					1	1
																											1	1

(B) Table of Population, Births & of New Cases of Infectious Sickness, coming to the Knowledge of M.O.H. during 1897. in Frimley Urban District.

Population at all ages.		Registered Births.	Aged under 5 & over 5.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Census 1891.	Estimated to middle 4/1897.			Smallpox	Scarlatina	Diphtheria	Mem. Coep.	FEVERS							Cholera	Erysipelas	Smallpox	Scarlatina	Diphtheria	Mem. Coep.	FEVERS.							Cholera.	Erysipelas.
5295	6298	148	Under 5			1																							
			5 and upwards	7				2														1							

Notification compulsory in District. No Isolation Hospitals. Above case sent to Reading Hospital.

